

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of decoding input, the method comprising:
 - identifying possible sequences of words from the input;
 - using a class-based language model and a class entity dictionary to select one of the possible sequences of words as an output sequence;
 - receiving modifications made to the output sequence; and
 - using the modifications to change the class entity dictionary.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein using the modifications to change the class entity dictionary comprises using the modifications to add an entity to the class entity dictionary.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein adding an entity to the class entity dictionary comprises adding an entity to a class in the class entity dictionary.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein adding an entity further comprises estimating a probability for the added entity given the class to which the entity is added.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein receiving a modification comprises receiving a modified entity that represents a modification of a decoded entity in the output sequence and wherein adding an entity comprises adding the modified entity.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein estimating a probability for the entity comprises estimating a probability based in part on a probability associated with the decoded entity.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein estimating a probability for the entity comprises estimating the probability based on an n-gram probability associated with the decoded entity and an n-gram probability associated with the class to which the modified entity is added.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein using the modifications to change the class entity dictionary comprises increasing a probability associated with an entity in the class entity dictionary.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein receiving modifications comprises receiving a modified entity that represents a modification of a decoded entity in the output sequence and wherein the modified entity is found in the class entity dictionary.

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in part on at least one of the decoded entity and the modified entity.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein setting a probability of an entity in the class entity dictionary comprises adding the modified entity to the class entity dictionary and selecting a probability for the modified entity.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14 wherein selecting a probability for the modified entity comprises estimating the probability based on a probability associated with the decoded entity.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15 wherein estimating the probability further comprises estimating the probability based on a probability associated with a class in the class entity dictionary.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein estimating the probability comprises estimating the probability based on an n-gram probability associated with the decoded entity and an n-gram probability associated with the class.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein setting a probability of an entity comprises increasing the probability of an entity.

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determining that the modified entity is in the class entity dictionary; and increasing the probability of the modified entity.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein setting the probability of an entity comprises decreasing the probability of an entity.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 20 wherein setting a probability further comprises:

determining that the decoded entity is in the class entity dictionary; and decreasing the probability of the decoded entity.

22. A method of adapting a class entity dictionary used with a class-based language model, the method comprising:

receiving a user modification of a sequence of words that were identified based in part on the class-based language model;

identifying a decoded segment that has been modified to become a modified segment in the user modification; and

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determining a probability for the modified
segment based in part on the decoded
segment.

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